

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD OCTOBER 6, 2011, AT 6:00 P.M., AT THE COTTONWOOD RECREATION CENTER, 150 SOUTH 6TH STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Linda Norman, Council Member
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Jesse Dowling, Council Member

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Ruben Jauregui, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
Steve Horton, City Attorney
Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk
Dan Lueder, Development Services General Manager
Mike Casson, Fire Chief
Rudy Rodriguez, Administrative Services General Manager
George Gehlert, Community Development Director

OPENING REMARKS BY THE MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND/OR CITY STAFF

Mayor Joens welcomed the citizens of Cottonwood and the citizens of Verde Santa Fe and requested a civil discussion.

Mr. Gehlert welcomed everyone from Verde Santa Fe. He pointed out that the Council and staff were present to receive public comment regarding the proposed annexation of Verde Santa Fe. It is part of the statutory requirement that we have a formal public hearing within 30 days after the filing of the blank petition. The blank petition was filed with the County Recorder's Office on September 9, 2011, and 30 days after this date petitions can start to be circulated.

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED VERDE SANTA FE COMMUNITY ANNEXATION LOCATED EAST OF THE COTTONWOOD CITY LIMITS

The following people spoke in opposition to the annexation: Ruth Ann McDaniel, Deborah Segall, Linda Kahn, Rollin Hook, Gary Clemmons, Michael & Josette Raty, Deanna King, Jill Keane, Cheryl Spagnolo, Dixie Hart, Ray Smith, Gerald Shanks, Lee Smith, Lila Huston, Robert E. Reynolds, Pacxneiz Kleven, Sandra Brines, Jim Brines, Bill Caitenberger, Charles Bismach, Karen & Richard Ray Lysz, Cliff Foster, Nikki Lewis, Gary Chamberlain, Roger Reif,

James Stitley, Marti Landis Jones, Ophelia Stevens, Nancy Woods, Anne Terry, Jan Hofmann, Susan McLaren, Jerry Fisher, David Hill, T. McCabe, Bill Murphy, Edmund T. Lisi, and Joy Payne.

The following people spoke in favor of the annexation: Virginia Busch, Judith Peebles, David Alton, and James Iacovacci.

Stephen Imms stated he was neutral on the annexation.

DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING ALLOWING THE SIGNATURE GATHERING PROCESS TO PROCEED FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION OF THE 30-DAY WAITING PERIOD, AND MAILING SIGNATURE PETITIONS TO ABSENTEE OWNERS

Mr. Bartosh cleared up some misconceptions about Cottonwood including the sales tax of 3 percent; increases in budgets are normal; county property taxes; the SAFE grant; internet taxes; and the possibility of Cottonwood implementing a property tax which would be decided by the taxpayers. He reminded everyone that they can either sign the petition or not sign the petition.

The Council held a question and answer period in regards to the annexation process, legality of the meeting, general tax questions, and capital projects.

Council Member Dowling stated he understands this is an emotional issue and has received a lot of emails on this subject. He is going to be as fair to everyone as best he can.

Council Member Elinski stated that there is a democratic process in place to approve the annexation process.

Council Member Norman stated that she supports the democratic process and it is up to the residents to decide.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer stated the City of Cottonwood has been very frugal with how much money we have spent, and have wisely put money away in the capital improvement fund.

The Council directed staff to move forward with the annexation process.

Mayor Joens thanked everyone for the civil hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joens moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Pfeifer and carried unanimously.

The special meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a special meeting of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood held on October 6, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk

Date